AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims to read as follows, and cancel without prejudice or disclaimer to resubmission in a divisional or continuation application claims indicated as cancelled:

1. – 6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently amended) The kit of claim 29 [[6]], wherein said kit comprises packaged reagents for determining haptoglobin genotype by a method selected from the group consisting of signal amplification, direct detection and detection of at least one sequence change.

8. (Previously amended) The kit of claim 7, wherein said signal amplification method amplifies a molecule selected from the group consisting of a DNA molecule and an RNA molecule.

9. (Previously amended) The kit of claim 7, wherein said signal amplification method is selected from the group consisting of PCR, LCR (LAR), Self-Sustained Synthetic Reaction (3SR/NASBA) and Q-Beta (Qβ) Replicase reaction.

10. (Previously amended) The kit of claim 7, wherein said direct detection method is selected from the group consisting of a cycling probe reaction (CPR) and a branched DNA analysis.

11. (Previously amended) The kit of claim 7, wherein said detection of at least one sequence change employs a method selected from the group consisting of restriction fragment length polymorphism (RFLP analysis), allele specific oligonucleotide (ASO) analysis, Denaturing/Temperature Gradient Gel Electrophoresis (DGGE/TGGE), Single-Strand Conformation Polymorphism (SSCP) analysis and Dideoxy fingerprinting (ddF).

12. – 28. (Cancelled)

29. (Currently amended) A kit for evaluating a potential of a diabetic patient to benefit from vitamin E ~~anti-oxidant~~ therapy for prevention of cardiovascular death or myocardial infarction ~~treatment of a vascular complication~~, the kit comprising packaged reagents for determining a haptoglobin genotype ~~phenotype~~ of the diabetic patient and a label or package insert indicating that the kit is for use in evaluating a potential of a diabetic patient to benefit from vitamin E ~~antioxidant~~ therapy for prevention of cardiovascular death or myocardial infarction ~~treatment of a vascular complication~~ comprising 1) determining the haptoglobin phenotype of the

diabetic patient, and 2) evaluating the potential of the diabetic patient to benefit from vitamin E ~~anti oxidant~~ therapy for prevention of cardiovascular death or myocardial infarction ~~treatment of a vascular complication~~ wherein said benefit from said vitamin E ~~anti oxidant~~ therapy to a patient having the haptoglobin 2-2 phenotype is greater compared to patients having the haptoglobin 1-2 phenotype or the haptoglobin 1-1 phenotype.

30. (New) A kit for evaluating a potential of a diabetic patient to benefit from vitamin E therapy for prevention of cardiovascular death or myocardial infarction, the kit comprising packaged reagents for determining a haptoglobin phenotype of the diabetic patient by a method utilizing an antibody, and a label or package insert indicating that the kit is for use in evaluating a potential of a diabetic patient to benefit from vitamin E therapy for prevention of cardiovascular death or myocardial infarction comprising 1) determining the haptoglobin phenotype of the diabetic patient, and 2) evaluating the potential of the diabetic patient to benefit from vitamin E therapy for prevention of cardiovascular death or myocardial infarction wherein said benefit from said vitamin E therapy to a patient having the haptoglobin 2-2 phenotype is greater compared to patients having the haptoglobin 1-2 phenotype or the haptoglobin 1-1 phenotype.

31. (New) The kit of claim 30, wherein said method utilizing an antibody is selected from the group consisting of a radio-immunoassay (RIA), an enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA), a western blot, an immunohistochemical analysis, and fluorescence activated cell sorting (FACS).

32. (New) The kit of claim 30 wherein the antibody is specific to at least one of Hp 1-1 or Hp 2-2.

33. (New) A kit for determining the haptoglobin genotype of a subject comprising comprising packaged reagents and a label or package insert.

34. (New) The kit of claim 33 wherein the packaged reagents are for a signal amplification method, a direct detection method or detection of at least one sequence change.

35. (New) A kit for determining the haptoglobin phenotype of a subject comprising comprising packaged reagents including an antibody that is specific to at least one of Hp 1-1 or Hp 2-2, and a label or package insert.

36. (New) The kit of claim 34 wherein the reagents are used in a method selected from the group consisting of a radio-immunoassay (RIA), an enzyme linked immunosorbent assay

(ELISA), a western blot, an immunohistochemical analysis, and fluorescence activated cell sorting (FACS).